

defense of liberty in times of war and peace. And on this Veteran's Day, we honor those especially courageous patriots who—on that gray, windy and fateful morning on the coast of Normandy—valiantly began the eradication from Europe of the hateful plague of Nazism, fascism and totalitarian dictatorship.

It is highly appropriate that this National D-Day Memorial should find its home here in Bedford, Virginia.

As vividly described by Colonel Doughty, United States and Allied soldiers stormed Omaha Beach at dawn June 6, 1944. And brave men from Bedford County spearheaded the first wave in one of the greatest military feats in the annals of world history.

Virginia remembers with pride the noble legacy of the 29th Division, especially the citizen-soldiers of the imperishable "Stone-wall Brigade" who waded, scrambled, fought and overcame entrenched forces on high, formidable bluffs.

While Time has washed away the blood of our fallen heroes from the beaches and cliffs of Normandy, Time has not washed away, and must not dim, our memories of those horrific and heroic events—how they fought; how they died; and how they won freedom for the people of Europe and the world.

Whether by hard-fought victory or through steadfast vigilance, each generation passes on to the next lessons: lessons in the sometimes high price of freedom.

This Memorial will be a thoughtful, magnificent tribute to the Americans and Allies who began the liberation of the European continent during that "Longest Day."

Right here in Bedford, Virginia, people from around the world can—and will—come to visit, learn and pay their respects to heroes of unselfish character and undaunted courage.

This Memorial will add meaning to the strong, silent testimony of those men who lost their own future in making secure for others the responsibilities and opportunities that come from freedom.

By breaking ground for this National D-Day Memorial, each of us is helping to ensure that the eternal flame of freedom will never be extinguished by force from without or by neglect from within.

Through the hard work of so many, we are bequeathing to our children a greater appreciation and respect for the many blessings of liberty, and a better understanding of their responsibility to nurture and protect it.

In closing, I pray God will continue to bless Virginia and the United States with people of such honor and character as those we remember this Veteran's Day, so that our United States will always be a beacon of hope, opportunity and freedom.

Veterans: we gratefully salute you in our minds and in our hearts!•

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS AND SISTERS OF THE ATONEMENT

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, December 15, 1997 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Order of the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Atonement. The Order was founded by Father Lewis T. Watson and Mother Lurana White in Garrison, New York with the goal of promoting Christian unity. The Friars and Sisters continue their mission work through the promotion of the Week of Christian Unity and the operation of ecumenical centers and libraries.

Through the years, the Friars and Sisters of the Atonement have re-

mained in Garrison where they now operate the Graymoor Ecumenical and Religious Institute. At Graymoor they publish a monthly magazine, Ecumenical Trends, and operate St. Christopher's Inn, a temporary shelter for homeless men, whom they refer to as "Brothers Christopher" or Christ Bearers.

The influence and the good work of the Friars and Sisters extends well beyond the Hudson Highlands region of New York, reaching throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. They operate day care centers, Retreat Houses, Head Start programs, and shelters for battered wives and children. They minister to the poor, feed the hungry, and embrace the marginalized worldwide. Not only do they seek unity of the Christian community, but also unity of the human spirit and unity of the human community.

True to their cause of Christian unity, they have dedicated their lives to the hope "that all may be one. . . that the world may believe." I commend their single-heartedness and congratulate them on the occasion of their 100th anniversary.•

CHILD EXPLOITATION SENTENCING ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1997

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my disappointment that in the final hours of this legislative session, a piece of legislation sponsored by my colleague, Senator DEWINE and I, S. 900 has apparently been stopped from passing the Senate because of an objection from the other side of the aisle.

S. 900 is a bi-partisan effort to address the growing problem of criminals using the Internet to contact and target young children that they ultimately sexually abuse and exploit. This bill requires the United States Sentencing Commission to create a sentencing enhancement for criminals who use the Internet to facilitate sexual crimes against young people. The legislation also increases penalties for repeat sexual offenders.

S. 900 has, on two occasions, received the unanimous support of the Senate Judiciary Committee. It has passed the Committee as a free-standing measure and was adopted as an amendment to juvenile justice legislation considered by the Committee earlier this year. Yet, we are now told that the bill has been held. I find it troubling that someone would object to legislation designed to help protect young children from being sexual abused and molested and that such objection would be made, without providing Senator DEWINE or myself an opportunity to address whatever concerns might exist.

Mr. President, the misuse of the Internet is a growing problem. FBI Director Freeh has testified to this fact and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children—which sup-

ports the DeWine/Feingold legislation—agrees that the situation is a growing concern. S. 900 is a straightforward, bipartisan effort to send the message that pedophiles and child molesters will not be allowed to exploit the Internet to commit their illicit crimes against children. While I regret that someone has chosen to slow this effort to protect children, I fully intend to return to this issue next year and will continue to push for the adoption of this legislation.•

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2267

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the conference report to accompany H.R. 2267, the appropriations bill for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies is received, if it is identical to the document filed earlier today, it be deemed agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without further action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, AND JUDICIARY APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes at this time to especially thank my staff, headed by Jim Morhard, and so many other members of the staff on both the Democratic and Republican side, who have spent literally hours, including all the hours of last night and many other evenings, but the entire night, getting this bill into a position where it could be passed. It is, as it appears to be, the last appropriations bill to be passed by the Senate and the House and, as such, it has had more than its fair share of issues attached to it. But as a result of the diligent and extraordinary work of the staff, both the Democratic and Republican staff, it is now, I believe, close to successful conclusion, and I anticipate that the House will soon be passing it, and it will be, as we have just agreed to here in the Senate, deemed passed.

The bill itself is a very strong piece of legislation. It makes an extraordinarily aggressive commitment to supporting and expanding our efforts in the area of law enforcement, in the area of trying to stop the drugs that are flowing into this country, in protecting our borders and expanding our efforts to make sure that people who are convicted, especially of violent crimes, are incarcerated and kept in prison.

It has a very strong commitment also to prevention activities in the area of our justice system. Special emphasis has been put on the violence-against-women initiatives, which are funded at \$270.7 million in this bill, an increase of almost 55 percent in this category since I became chairman in 1995.